

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
Foreman's House
600 feet southwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-A

HAER
MONT
7-GREFA.1
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
FOREMAN'S HOUSE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The Foreman's House is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The house is 600 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.

Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 485238 Easting; 5264640 Northing

**Date of
Construction:** 1911

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company
40 East Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701

Present Use: House

Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. The Foreman's House contributes to the significance of the district.

Historian: Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
April 1995

II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Foreman's House is located in the middle of the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility's operators' camp (see figure 1). The Great Falls Power Company (a Montana Power subsidiary after February 1913) constructed the Foreman's House 1911. It was the first permanent building in what was to become the operators' camp. An undated, very distant, photograph in the Rainbow Shop shows the house before other buildings were constructed around it. The house was designed as a hipped-roofed bungalow with a cut-away front porch.

The Foreman's House is rectangular in plan with a rectangular wing on the rear (see figure 2). The extension of the front porch added a small ell at the front of the house. All roofs are hipped and covered with wood shingles, except for a gabled pediment over the front door and the gable-roofed second floor addition. The rafter tails on the main house are exposed and extend two feet from the house. They have a cut-out design on their face and underside.

The house rests on a concrete foundation. The wood-frame walls are sided with clapboard siding with a narrow (2½") exposure; the corner boards are mitered. A belt course at the foundation is topped with a water table. Most windows in the house have one-over-one wood double-hung sash. A polygonal bay on the northeast side has a cottage window with a leaded glass transom. A similar cottage window is located on the northwest side of the porch addition, and was probably relocated from the front of the house at the time it was remodeled.

The Foreman's House received some Prairie School style features when the front porch was remodeled. The narrowness of the addition, only 12 feet, provided a low hipped roof intersecting the hipped roof of the original house. This feature added a low, horizontal appearance to the facade. The horizontal appearance was further emphasized by bands of windows on the southeast and northeast sides of the porch. These windows have vertical sash divisions in their upper quarter. The front door also has Prairie School characteristics with the sash divided vertically. The narrow clapboard siding may also date from this remodel.

To provide an additional bedroom, a portion of the original house's roof was removed, and a wood-frame, gable roofed, second floor was added. The addition is

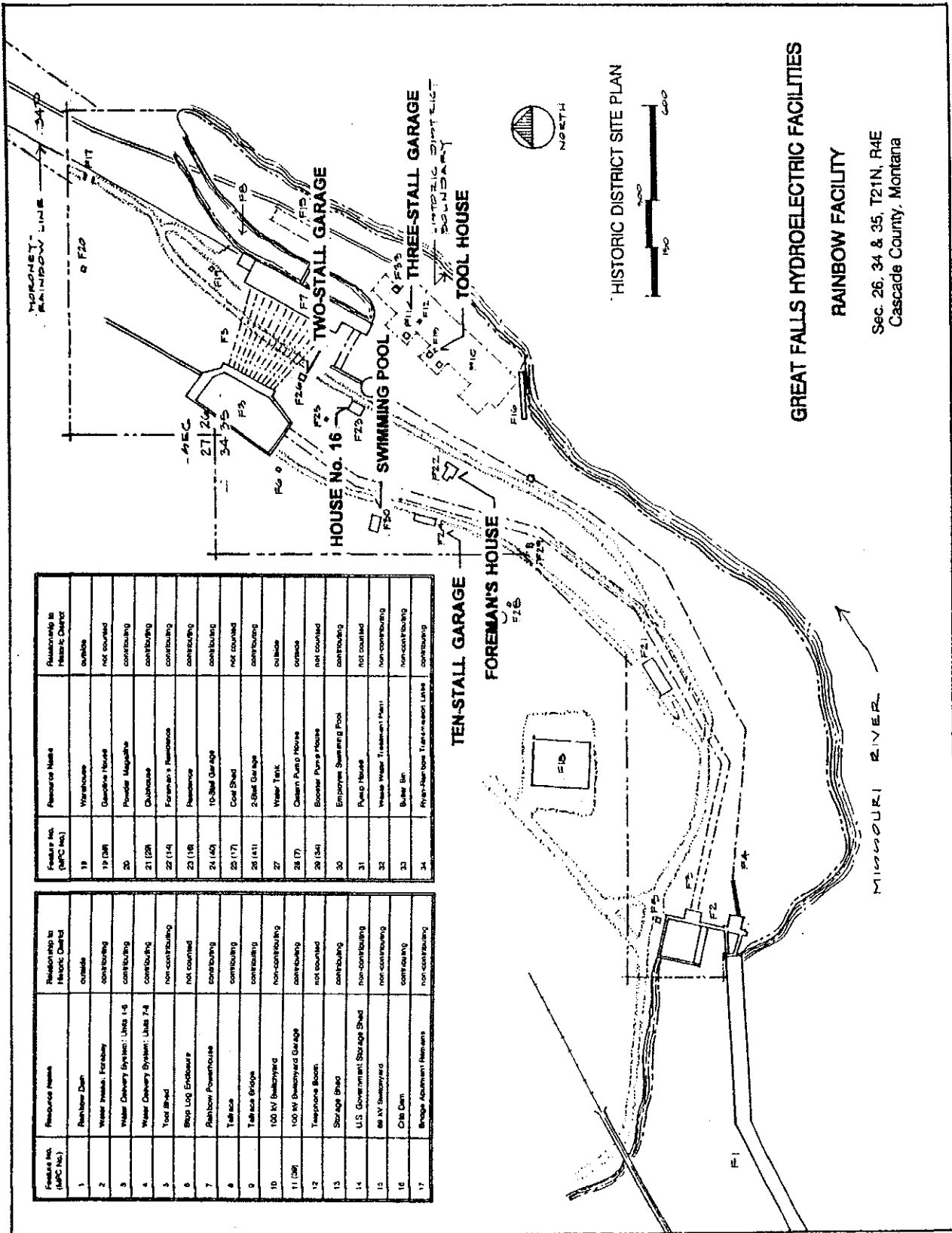
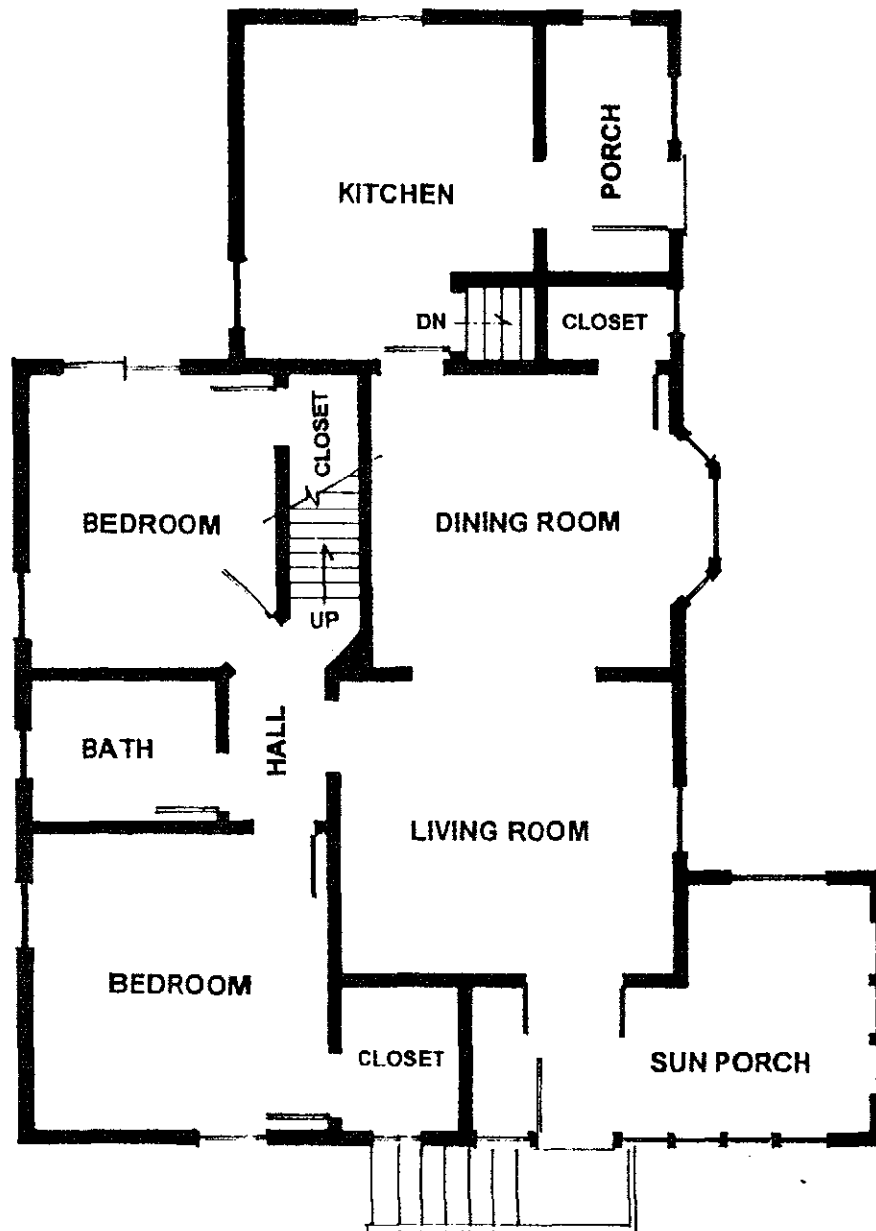


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.



FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



FOREMAN'S HOUSE (HOUSE No. 14)

**RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**

Figure 2. Floor Plan of Foreman's House.

nearly identical to the 1935 modification of another operators' camp building (See HAER No. MT-95-D), and probably dates from about the same time. The addition has a few Craftsman details, limited to plain brackets at the eaves and shingled walls with every second course having a narrow exposure. The rafter tails are exposed. A pair of four-light windows are located on the northeast and southwest sides.

The only modern modifications to the Foreman's House have occurred at the rear. At the northwest corner, a wood sliding glass door was installed and a modern deck added in the ell created by the kitchen wing. Another modern wood deck is located on the northeast side at the kitchen door.

III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the Foreman's House at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the building.